In the claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A process for the purification of N-carboxyanhydrides of amino acids, comprising contacting the N-carboxyanhydride(s) of amino acids, in solution or in suspension in ~~a nonpolar solvent medium~~ an aromatic hydrocarbon by stirring, with silica added ~~to the~~ in an amount from 0.5 to 10% by weight with respect to the weight of N-carboxyanhydrides to be purified to absorb impurities and then filtering the mixture to remove the silica.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein contact is achieved by mixing, in the nonpolar solvent medium, the silica with the N-carboxyanhydride(s), in solution or in suspension.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the silica used is chosen within the category known as silica gel.

Cancel **Claim 5.**

Claim 6 (previously presented) The process of Claim 1 wherein the purified N-carboxyanhydride(s) is/are treated with an aqueous solution of an inorganic or organic acid.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The process of Claim 6 wherein the pH of the medium is between 1 and 2.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The process of Claim 6 wherein the treatment is carried out at a temperature of between 0°C and 15°C.

Claim 9 (previously presented) The process of Claim 6 wherein the acid used is an inorganic acid.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The process of Claim 9 wherein the inorganic acid is hydrochloric acid.